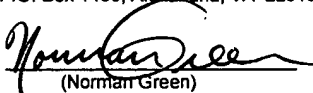


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 783104230 US, in an envelope addressed to MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: October 31, 2005

Signature:


(Norman Green)

Attorney Docket No.: 564462006600
Client Docket No.: D1440-2US
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Mark MADDEN et al.

Application No.: 09/751,299

Confirmation No.: 8629

Filed: December 28, 2000

Art Unit: 1652

For: METHODS FOR PRODUCING ALPHA-SUBSTITUTED CARBOXYLIC ACIDS
USING NITRILASES AND STRECKER
REAGENTS (AMENDED)

Examiner: Kathleen M. Kerr

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION (37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.116)

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Responsive to the Final Office Action mailed June 30, 2005 ("OA"), Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and consideration of the remarks set forth herein. A response was initially due September 30, 2005. Applicants herein submit a petition for a one month extension of time to October 31, 2005 (October 30, 2005, was a Sunday) under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, with the appropriate fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17. Accordingly, this Response is timely filed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 15 of this paper.

The following documents are enclosed herewith:

- Transmittal letter, Fee Transmittal, Petition for a One Month Extension of Time, Return Receipt Postcard;

- Exhibit A: color copy of sequence alignment of prior art nitrilases and sequences of the invention.

- Exhibit B: list of prior art nitrilases used in sequence alignment.

- Exhibit C: copy of Pace and Brenner (2001) Genome Biology 2(1):reviews.

- Exhibit D: copy of Bork (1994) Protein Science 3:1344-1346.

- Exhibit E: copy of Almatawah (1999) Extremophiles 3:283-291.

- Exhibit F: copy of Kobayashi (1998) Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun. 253:662-666.

- Exhibit G: copy of Kobayashi (1990) J. Bacteriol. 172:4807-4815.

- Exhibit H: copy of abstract for Kobayashi (1989) Eur. J. Biochem. 182:349-356.